


-3-

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above and the last filed response and remarks of December 17, 2003, it is believed that all pending claims (Claims 1-18) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

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